

Message Text

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42

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /026 W
----- 031641

O R 121149Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7874

INFO AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASYAIDAKAR

JMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM 233

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABIDJAN 3481

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP(KISSINGER, HENRY A.) XA, OTRA

SUBJ: SECRETARY'S TRIP TO AFRICA-DELETION OF ABIDJAN STOP

REF: (A) STATE 082135, (B) ABIDJAN 3311, (C) ABIDJAN 3276(NOTAL)

1. GOIC WILL BE DISAPPOINTED THAT SECRETARY HAS DECIDED TO DELETE ABIDJAN STOP FROM HIS AFRICAN TRIP, PARTICULARLY SINCE LOCAL NEWS SERVICE HAD BEGUN TO CARRY STORIES OF HIS COMING HERE. ALTHOUGH PRESIDENT HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY WAS AWARE OF SECRETARY'S PLANS (REFTELS A AND B), DELETION WILL COME AS NO SURPRISE.

2. NEVERTHELESS, IN VIEW OF SENSITIVITIES HERE, IT WOULD BE VERY HELPFUL TO OUR RELATIONS WITH IVORY COAST IF I COULD BE AUTHORIZED TO INFORM PRESIDENT AND FOREIGN MINISTER THAT, IN VIEW OF ABSENCE OF PRESIDENT HOUPHOUET ON EXTENDED TRIP WHICH MORE THAN COVERS FULL PERIOD OF SECRETARY'S TRIP IN AFRICA, SECRETARY HAS
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REGRETFULLY DECIDED NOT TO STOP IN ABIDJAN. FURTHER, THAT

SECRETARY HOPES TO VISIT IVORY COAST ON SOME FUTURE OCCASION.

3. I EXPECT TO SEE PRESIDENT HOUPHOUET THIS WEEK, PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE FOR EUROPE, AND WOULD BE MOST GRATEFUL IF I COULD BE AUTHORIZED TO TELL HIM SOMETHING ALONG LINES OF ABOVE STATEMENT ON SECRETARY'S BEHALF.

4. SEVERAL GOIC OFFICIALS, INCLUDING FOREIGN MINISTER, HAVE INFORMALLY SUGGESTED THAT "IT WOULD BE A GOOD THING IF " THE SECRETARY COULD MEET WITH PRESIDENT HOUPHOUET IN GENEVA SOMETIME DURING MAY. I, OF COURSE, MADE NO COMMITMENT, NOR OFFER TO FOLLOW UP ON THIS SUGGESTION. SMITH

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